

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 MC-02 DOTE-00 CG-00 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MIL, IN, FR

SUBJECT: NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM ON REUNION

REF: NEW DELHI 5215 AND PARIS 9558

IN 1968 WE LAUNCHED A PROGRAM TO INSTALL OMEGA TRANSMITTING STATIONS AT EIGHT TO TWELVE POINTS IN THE WORLD TO FACILITATE PRECISE LOCATION BY OCEAN-GOING VESSELS. THE PROJECT IS SPONSORED BY THE COAST GUARD, AND IS NOT A MILITARY SYSTEM, BUT IS AVAILABLE TO BOTH NAVAL AND MERCHANT VESSELS. BECAUSE OF ITS VERY LONG RANGE IT IS A GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER LORAN. COMMERCIAL USE OF OMEGA RECEIVERS IS ALREADY WIDESPREAD. AFTER LONG DISCUSSIONS THE FRENCH AGREED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO INSTALL AN OMEGA STATION ON REUNION TO COVER THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. THE FRENCH AGREED TO PAY FOR AND MAN THIS FRENCH INSTALLATION THEMSELVES WITH OUR NAVY LENDING THE EQUIPMENT. NEGOTIATION OF AN AGREEMENT WAS PROTRACTED BY TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES RELATING TO INSTALLATION OF ANTENNAE AT

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REUNION. ONCE THESE PROBLEMS WERE OVERCOME THE NEGOTI-

ATION WAS CONCLUDED AND THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY AMBASSADOR
IRWIN IN PARIS LAST JUNE. THE FRENCH FOR THEIR OWN
REASONS DECIDED TO SUBMIT THE UNCLASSIFIED AGREEMENT
FOR PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION AND PUBLISH AN EXPLANATION
OF IT. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO AWAIT WORD FROM
PARIS ON COMPLETION OF THE FRENCH RATIFICATION PROCEDURE.
KISSINGER

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